IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 1, as follows:

However, since a frictional resistance between a wall of the slot 38 and the fixing pin 39 is significantly large when the wedge action occurs between them, [a] plenty of energy is needed to rotate the fixing plate 36 in the original position after the fixing. Therefore, when the fixing plate 36 is rotated by a force of a spring, a strong spring is needed, and when the fixing plate 36 is rotated by electricity, much electric power is needed.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 11, as follows:

In order to solve the above-mentioned problems, it is an object of the present invention to provide a paper-pressing table lock mechanism of a stapler which can easily draw out a fixing plate by temporarily reducing a force for clinching a staple immediately after each leg of the staple is clinched.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 16, as follows:

In order to attain the object, a paper-pressing table lock mechanism of a stapler of the present invention is provided with a table link that is rotatably provided in a base and has a paper-pressing table including a movable clincher on the leading end thereof, the table link having a fixing pin projecting on the side surface thereof; a fixing plate that is provided so as to slide with a wedge action with respect to the fixing pin and that is engaged with the fixing pin to lock the table link in a paper-pressing state; a driver that holds sheets of paper to be stapled,

which is pressed against the table, and push up a staple from the opposite side toward the table; a clincher link that is rotatably provided in the base so as to press the movable clincher of the table link in the paper-pressing state from the opposite side to the driver and that clinches each leg of the staple penetrating the sheets of paper to be stapled; a clinch lever that presses the clincher link to operate; and a pressure reducing mechanism that temporarily reduces the pressure by the clinch lever with respect to the clincher link.

Please add the lines beginning on page 4, line 15, as follows:

Fig. 13 is a diagram explaining the positional relationship between the left and right clinch cam when the phase between the concave sections 35 are shifted.

Fig. 14 is a diagram explaining the positional relationship between the left and right clinch cam when the phase difference is about 15°.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 26, as follows:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of an embodiment of the present invention, illustrating a table lock mechanism A and clinch mechanism B of an electric stapler. The table lock mechanism A, which ~~press~~ presses a table 8 against sheets of paper (a) to be stabled when the sheets of paper (a) to be stapled is set in a predetermined position, is composed of a table link 3, a return link 4, a fixing plate 5, a table fixing link 6, and a fixing cam 7. On the other hand, the clinch mechanism B, which pushes up a staple into the sheets of paper (a) in a state where the sheets of paper is pressed (hereinafter, referred to as 'the paper-pressing state'), and clinches each leg of the staple

which has penetrated the sheets of paper (a) by the pushing up, is composed of a clincher link 25, a clinch lever 26, and a clinch cam 27.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 14, as follows:

Next, the table lock mechanism will be described sequentially with reference to Figs. 2 to 5. Reference numeral 10 denotes a base plate in which both mechanisms are provided. Two sheets of base plates are provided parallel to each other. Further, a stapling table 1 is fixed to the upper portion of the front portion of the base plate 10. A driver 2, provided to move along a substantially straight line from the lower side of the stapling table 1 toward the upper side, is driven to push up a staple on the sheets of paper (a) pressed against the table 8. ~~All the~~ The table lock mechanism, clinch mechanism, and driver driving mechanism are operated by the same motor. In addition, the staples are sequentially supplied to the table 8 in a state where each leg thereof is upward.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 23, as follows:

According to the clinch mechanism, when the table link 3 rotates downward to press the sheets of paper a as described above, the clincher link 25 does not simultaneously ~~rotates~~ rotate, keeping its position. At this time, the leg 30 of the clincher link 25 becomes free from the clinch cam 27 in a state where it is disengaged from the clinch lever 26, as shown in Fig. 8. Next, in the above-described paper-pressing state, the driver 2 for pushing up a staple is driven from the

lower side, a staple 11 is pushed up from the stapling table 1 toward the sheets of paper (a), and each leg 11a of the staple 11 penetrates the sheets of paper (a) so as to protruding beyond the rear side of the paper, as shown in Fig. 11. After that, in order for the circular arc portion 34 of the rotated clinch cam 27 to push the engagement pin 33 of the clinch lever 26 as shown in Fig. 9, the clinch lever 26 ~~rotate~~ rotates in the clockwise direction, and its leading end is engaged with the engagement portion 31 of the clincher link 25 so as to press the engagement portion 31. Therefore, the clincher link 25 rotates in the counterclockwise direction, and its pressing section 28 presses the movable clincher 12 of the table link 3 so as to operate, which has been in the paper-pressing state. Then, as shown in Fig. 11, each leg 11a of the staple 11, which has penetrated the sheets of paper (a), is clinched, and the stapling operation is completed. Therefore, the fixing plate 5 which has been in the state of Fig. 5 is drawn by the fixing cam 7 so as to move to the initial position, and the table link 3 also returns to the initial position.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 22, as follows:

In the above-described pressure reducing unit, the left and right clinch cams 27 are formed in the same external feature and are mounted on a driving shaft so as to rotate in the same phase. However, the external feature of the right clinch cam 27 and the external feature of the left clinch cam 27 may be formed to be different from each other so that the phase between the concave sections 35 of the right and left clinch cams 27 is shifted as shown in Fig. 13. In addition, the left and right clinch cams 27 may be mounted on a driving shaft so that the phase difference between the left and right clinch cams 27 occurs (for example, about 15°). See Fig.

14. In this case, the engagement pin 33 of the clinch lever 26 sinks into the respective concave sections 35 with the time difference between the left and right (the timing between the left and right is shifted). Therefore, the reduction in the press-contacting force with respect to the clincher link 25 is performed separately in the left and right.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 1, as follows:

In the paper-pressing table lock mechanism of a stapler according to the present invention, immediately after the clinch lever causes the clinch link to clinch the leg of the staple which penetrates the sheets of paper to be stapled, the pressure by the clinch lever with respect to the clincher link is temporarily reduced by the pressure reducing unit. Therefore, the clincher moves down in a state where the clincher still receives the press-contacting force from the driver plate. Accordingly, the looseness occurs between the driver plate and the clincher link. The fixing plate becomes easy to draw out as much as the looseness. If the fixing plate is set to be drawn out at this timing, it can be simply drawn out to be moved to the initial position.